

Amendments to the Claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to~~[::]

(a) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;~~

(b) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,

(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333; or~~

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270;~~

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a needed polypeptide that induces chondrocyte proliferation.

29. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% nucleic acid sequence identity to~~[::]

(a) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;~~

(b) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,

(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333; or~~

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270;~~

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a needed polypeptide that induces chondrocyte proliferation.

30. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[::]]
(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;
(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;
(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,
(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333, or
(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,
wherein the nucleic acid encodes a ~~needed~~ polypeptide that induces chondrocyte proliferation.

31. (currently amended) T The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[::]]
(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;
(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;
(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,
(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333, or
(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,
wherein the nucleic acid encodes a ~~needed~~ polypeptide that induces chondrocyte proliferation.

32. (currently amended) The An isolated nucleic acid of ~~Claim~~ 28 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333; or

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,
wherein the encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte proliferation.

33. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333 shown in Figure 193 (SEQ ID NO:333);

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333;
or

(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270.

34. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334.

35. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide.

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333.

39. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333.

40. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270.

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 28, 32, 48[[],] or 52 53 or 58.

45. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 44, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

46. (currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 44.

47. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 46, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

48. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[]]~~

- (a) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;~~
- (b) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,
- (c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333; or~~
- (d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,~~

wherein the wherein the nucleic acid encodes a encoded polypeptide that induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

49. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 48 ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[:]]~~

~~(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;~~

~~(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,~~

~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333, or~~

~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,~~

wherein the wherein the nucleic acid encodes a encoded polypeptide that induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

50. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 48 ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[:]]~~

~~(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;~~

~~(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333,~~

~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333, or~~

~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,~~

wherein the wherein the nucleic acid encodes a encoded polypeptide that induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

51. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 48 ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[:]]~~

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333.
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333; or
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,
wherein the nucleic acid encodes a encoded polypeptide that induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

52. (currently amended) ~~The An~~ isolated nucleic acid of ~~Claim 48~~ encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:334, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:333; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203270,
wherein the encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

53-62. (canceled)